

2-15th FA Fills Infantry Shoes

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mnt. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - Every Soldier is an infantryman first in the Army. One unit in Iraq is taking this belief to heart, trading in Howitzers in the rear for Humvees on the streets.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, are conducting infantry operations in their area of responsibility here. While artillery and infantry tasks differ, Capt. Shawn Shutts, Battery B commander, 2-15 FA, said his Soldiers are up for the job.

"It's different but not unusual for an artillery unit to have infantry responsibilities," Shutts said. "Soldiers are excited to be out here. They're not infantrymen yet, but they're learning."

Soldiers from 2-15 FA deployed as part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Commandos), 10th Mountain Division. The need for artillery fire is limited, however. The artillery unit became an infantry unit in every sense, except by name, as a result.

"This is a different type of conflict," Shutts said. "We are out of the phase of battle where we shoot big artillery rounds."

Part of 2-15 FA's tasks include protecting the area from insurgent attacks and to help Iraqi citizens rebuild their country,



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First Lt. Michael Calderon, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, talks to local Iraqi children Aug. 30 in Iraq. Like their cousin infantry units, the field artillery Soldiers patrol their area of responsibility daily.

Shutts said

"We were given an area to take care of and to make sure it's secure," he said. "We also help the local community by making assessments of their sewage, water, electricity and trash, and report it to civil affairs. This is primarily an agricultural area. They're very concerned about water and electricity."

Although some of their infantry tasks are new to the Soldiers, they are well prepared to meet their expectations, Shutts said. They began conducting infantry training in February in anticipation of a deployment.

"We were preparing for this at Fort Drum," Spc. Roy Ingram, 2-15 FA said. "We did close combat ...fighting and trained for convoy ambushes. We also did traffic control point and other training in Kuwait before we came to Iraq."

Their training is already paying off, Shutts said. On Aug. 30, Soldiers from 2-15 FA and 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, Fort Polk, La., halted under a cluster of palm trees after a routine patrol. A 2-15 Infantry Soldier discovered a wire in the ground that connected three improvised explosive

devices. Ironically, the IEDs were made from artillery rounds.

"It probably would have killed or wounded all of us," Shutts said. "A lot of it was luck, but a lot of it is these guys knowing what to look for."

Most Soldiers are excited to conduct infantry missions and to gain new experiences, Ingram said.

"Doing infantry stuff is fun," he said. "It's much different than field artillery. It gives us something different to do, something we haven't done in the past. We're out driving around looking for the bad guys."

Father and Daughter Meet Again at Cooke

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE, Iraq - "Daddy, Daddy!" is an exclamation any father would be happy to hear from his child. To his surprise and delight, Sgt. Tommy Reddick heard this cry while walking to the Post Exchange at Camp Cooke.

"I knew she was in Iraq, but I had no idea she was at Taji until I saw her at the PX," said the Military Police platoon team leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 39th Brigade Combat Team. "I saw her and said 'Tommie?' and she just went crazy."

Spc. Tommie Reddick, a motor transport operator with the 980th Engineers, received word she was to be deployed to Iraq while she was still in basic training.

"My drill sergeants kept telling me I was going to Iraq," said Spc. Reddick. "[My Dad] told me he was going to be in Taji, but I didn't know where I was going



By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Tommy Reddick, a team leader with the Military Police platoon, 39th Brigade Combat Team, and his daughter, Tommie Reddick, a motor transport operator with the 980th Engineer Company, 39th BCT, deployed to Iraq at different times and happened to be stationed at Camp Cooke together.

to end up. Then I came here [to Taji] and we ran into each other."

Though their jobs take them off post often, father and daughter spend as much time as possible together.

"We eat dinner together

a lot or just sit and visit," said Sgt. Reddick, a 19-year Army veteran who calls Warren, Ark. home. "We try to not let more than eight days pass without seeing each other and catching up."

Following in her father's

footsteps, Spc. Reddick intends to make the Army her career. Though she enjoys her current military occupational specialty of truck driver, she plans to move toward a job in the medical field.

"My goal is to be a pharmacist," Spc. Reddick said. "I'm going to start school when I get back home."

Though a little apprehensive about being in Iraq, Spc. Reddick feels better knowing her father is just a short drive away.

"Though my mother is very supportive, it is very nice to have family close by," said Spc. Reddick, who calls Lonoke, Ark. home. "It is a great stress reliever."

Sgt. Reddick echoed her feelings.

"It is very scary as a parent to have her [deployed]," he said. "When she is here at Taji, I am more at ease than when she is outside the wire. But she is doing great. She is holding her own."

SAFETY TIP

SAFE MOVEMENT



The senior occupant is responsible for ensuring the driver operates the vehicle safely. At a minimum, the driver will--

- ▶ Comply with Army regulations and local laws.
- ▶ Not exceed the vehicle's seating capacity.
- ▶ Ensure occupants are wearing restraint devices.
- ▶ Use ground guide when vehicle is backing.
- ▶ Prohibit passengers from riding in unsafe conditons.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Would you like to join us?

tuHibb tushaarik-naa

Friday

High: 108
Low: 82



Saturday

High: 106
Low: 80



Sunday

High: 104
Low: 78



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Ark. School Districts Cope with Growth

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) - Proof of the Springdale School District's swelling student population can be found in the high school lunchroom. Lines form across the cafeteria as students wait to reach the Bulldog Grill, a pizza stand and other food carts during the school's three 30-minute lunch periods. More lines stretch from vending machines, where hungry students wait to grab M&Ms and potato chips before the stock runs out. The food supply doesn't always reach all of the high school's 2,726 students.

Festival Raises Cash for Mental Health

RUTHERFORD, Calif. (AP) -- The Music Festival for Mental Health is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month. In addition to music, it will feature wine tasting, gourmet food and a lecture program. So far, the festival has raised more than \$22 million in direct and matching funds for mental health research and treatment -- and tried to shine a light on a much-misunderstood subject. This year's festival, scheduled for Sept. 11, features a seminar by Dr. Thomas Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, followed by jazz from 2003 Grammy Award winner Norman Brown. The affair draws scientists, parents, wine-tasters and music lovers.



Dallas Morning News

Olympic gymnast Carly Patterson waves to the crowd from the back of a convertible during a community parade last week. Despite missing the U.S. Nationals because of a stress fracture, the Allen native earned the all-around silver medal -- the first all-around Worlds medal by an American woman since 1994. Patterson also helped the U.S. to the team gold medal, the first world title for the American women and the team's first major international gold since the 1996 Olympics.

Surgeon Brings Leadership to VA

TEMPLE, Texas (Killeen Daily Herald) - Dr. Thomas Scott, the new chief of surgery, is making an impact at the Temple VA Hospital.

"Dr. Scott was already a chief of surgery in Tucson and knew the VA system. He is an excellent leader," said Dr. Robert Ratliff, acting director of the Central Texas Veterans Affairs Health Care System. "Dr. Scott is not shy about making change and holding people accountable."

Scott said he brings a fresh perspective and experience in managing quality of patient care to the department.

"I've seen the sacrifices of people over the years," Scott said. "It means a lot to give comfort to them later in life."

Veteran troubleshooter.

"The VA has a long tradition for great service, not withstanding the last few years," Scott said. "That is how we look in the eyes of our beneficiaries."

Scott served 24 years in the U.S. Air Force following medical school and retired as a colonel. "It seemed natural to come out of the service and go into service for my brother and sister veterans," he said.

When stationed in Washington, D.C., at the Surgeon General's office, Scott learned about journalistic inquiry into military health care.

"We humans work in a human enterprise and do not want to bury our heads," Scott said. "It is important to hear the element of truth in naysayers, because with criticism comes opportunity to improve."

Scott grew up in an Air Force family. He attended the University of Nebraska on a military scholarship. After a residency in general surgery, Scott took a fellowship at Harvard.

During a post-residency fellowship in Boston, Scott earned a master's degree in public health "because the Air Force would not let me take courses without working toward a degree," he said.

Scott served as battle group surgeon aboard two aircraft carriers in the late 1980s while an assistant professor of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the nation's only medical military academy.

Scott was deployed to the 317th Contingency Hospital in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Singh Playing Like Tiger of 2000

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP) -- Tiger Woods has put himself in some peculiar positions this year.

He has struggled just to make the cut. Tee shots have ricocheted off corporate tents and small children. He has spent Sunday afternoons cleaning out his locker, not standing on the 18th green posing with the trophy.

The strangest sight of all is "No. 2" next to his name in the world ranking.

Woods' record streak as the best player in golf - 264 consecutive weeks at No. 1 - came to an end at the Deutsche Bank Championship when Vijay Singh turned in a performance that even a computer couldn't dis-

pute.

It was just a matter of time before the 41-year-old Fijian got his due.

It was the manner in which Singh reached the pinnacle of his amazing career that made it even sweeter.

Tied with Woods down the stretch on the TPC at Boston, with the gallery expecting Woods to respond to the most imminent threat to his throne, Singh pulled away with three birdies on the final five holes to win by three shots and become only the 12th player to be No. 1 in the 18-year history of the world ranking.

"I've achieved what I wanted to do," Singh said. "I won a major. I won quite a lot of tournaments, and at the same



By winning the Deutsche Bank Championship on Monday, Vijay Singh has six titles this year.

time became No. 1 in the world. The whole season has been a great one."

His season looks like the kind that once only belonged to Woods.

Singh's six PGA Tour victories are three times as many as anyone else. With two months left in the season, he already is a lock to win player of the year.

U.S. Escapes Panama Qualifier with Tie

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) -- For the second straight road game, the United States got a late goal from a second-half substitute to gain a tie in World Cup qualifying.

Cobi Jones scored two minutes into second-half injury time Wednesday night, and the United States escaped with a 1-1 tie against Panama.

"I give the U.S. credit for passing character test," American coach Bruce Arena said. "At the end of the day, it is not certainly a perfect performance, but we are on the road and we take two points away from the home team."

The United States extended its unbeaten streak to 10 since a February loss to the Netherlands in an exhibition game. In the only



U.S. soccer players celebrates after Cobi Jones scored a late goal to force a 1-1 tie in their World Cup qualifier at Panama on Wednesday.

previous meeting between the nations, the Americans won 2-1 in July 1993 at Dallas at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the regional championship.

"Once again, it was horrible conditions," U.S. goal-

keeper Kasey Keller said. "Bad lightning, the pitch (field) was halfway under water. We didn't play particularly well, particularly in the second half, so you have to give everybody credit for not quitting."

Sports Shorts

Campbell Returns Home with Medals

FAYETVILLE, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) -- Veronica Campbell, a former Arkansas Lady Razorbacks sprinter, returned home from the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, with a gold medal in the 200 meters, a bronze in the 100 meters and a second gold medal as part of Jamaica's 400 relay team. The 200 gold was just the sixth gold medal in Jamaica's history, the country's first since the 1996 Games. "I was so confident I knew I was going to win," Campbell said during an interview Tuesday at the University of Arkansas.

Reid Extends for Four with Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- Eagles coach Andy Reid received a four-year contract extension from the Philadelphia Eagles on Wednesday that will take him through the 2010 season. Reid, entering his sixth season in Philadelphia, has led the Eagles to three consecutive NFC championship games, but no Super Bowls. He is in the third year of a \$15 million, six-year contract signed in June 2001. Reid's extension reportedly is worth more than \$4.2 million per season. Reid's .638 winning percentage in the regular season (51-29) and his five playoff victories are the best in team history.

